A

Statement of Facts

RESPECTING

THE DESIGNS

OF

A NEW HOUSE OF LORDS,

AS

Ordered by the Lords Committees,

AND HUMBLY SUBMITTED

TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THEIR LORDSHIPS,

BY

JOHN SOANE, F. A. S.

ARCHITECT to the BANK of ENGLAND,

AND

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMIES

OF

LONDON, PARMA, & FLORENCE.

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A Statement of Facts, &c.

UNDER all the circumſtances connected with the deſign of improving the buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall, in order to render them more commodious for the buſineſs of Parliament, Mr. Soane thinks it a duty incumbent on him to ſtate the proceedings, as far as they apply to himſelf; he had long flattered himſelf with the pleaſing expectation of being honored with the execution of a deſign to which he had devoted his unremitting ſtudy and attention for many years, and from the full approbation it had received from the higheſt authorities in the kingdom, he had indulged himſelf with the expectation that Government only waited a more fa-

vorable moment to carry the plans, which had ſo far been approved, into execution.

To demonſtrate that this expectation was not the reſult of an unpardonable vanity, he begs to recapitulate, with the ſtricteſt fidelity, the following notes from his journal or from his memory, with a reference to official documents as far as he can command them.*

Lord

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* In July, 1789, Mr. Soane had the honor to receive the following order to attend a Committee of the Houſe of Commons, (Mr. Wyatt, Mr. Dance, Mr. Mylne, &c. received the ſame order.)

"At the Committee appointed to inſpect the ſeveral houſes and other buildings immediately adjoining to Weſtminſter Hall, and the two Houſes of Parliament, and the offices thereto belonging; and to report to the Houſe their opinion from time to time in what manner the ſame may be beſt ſecured from the danger of fire, and what improvements it may be proper to make therein.

Die Jovis, 9 Julii, 1789.

Sir

Lord Grenville applied to Mr. Soane in the month of Auguſt, 1793, for his opinion as to the beſt mode of procuring plans for the before-ſtated purpoſes.

Mr. Soane waited on Lord Grenville accordingly. His Lordſhip in this converſation propoſed announcing the object

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Sir Peter Burrell in the chair.

Ordered,

That Mr. Soane do attend this Committee on Wedneſday next, at two of the clock, in the Speaker's Chambers at the Houſe of Commons.

P. BURRELL, Chairman."

Mr. Soane here takes the liberty to obſerve, that the idea of making deſigns for a Senate Houſe had engaged his attention from the time when he firſt began the ſtudy of Architecture under Mr. George Dance—an Architect whoſe perfect knowledge of the ancient works of the Greeks and Romans, and whoſe correct taſte, founded on the moſt pure examples of antiquity, firſt ſecured him at Parma, in 1763, the premium in Architecture from twenty-nine competitors, and have ſince deſervedly placed him in the firſt claſs of profeſſional men who have ever adorned this or any other nation.

to Artiſts by advertiſement; Mr. Soane preſumed to offer ſome reaſons againſt that mode, and propoſed that the moſt eminent or known Architects ſhould be applied to, either to make ſeparate plans, or a committee to be formed, to make one joint deſign. His Lordſhip approved the ſuggeſtion; and, conſequent to this converſation, Mr. Secretary Long addreſſed the ſubjoined letters to Mr. Soane *:

Mr.

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* SIR,

The Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury having had under their conſideration the addreſs of the Houſe of Lords to His Majeſty, dated the 17th of June laſt, that he would be pleaſed to give directions that a plan might be prepared during the courſe of this Summer, whereby the buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall may be rendered more commodious for the buſineſs of Parliament, and particularly for the accommodation of that Houſe; with His Majeſty's moſt gracious anſwer thereto; and my Lords underſtanding that you have made a plan of the Houſe of Lords, and of the buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall, are pleaſed to deſire you will ſubmit the ſame to the following Architects:

Mr.

Mr. Soane immediately ſent copies of the firſt letter of Mr. Secretary Long to all the

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Mr. Holland,	Mr. Cockerell,
Mr. Groves, jun.	Mr. Brettingham,
Mr. Mylne,	Mr. James Adam,
Mr. White,	Mr. Dance,
Mr. S. Wyatt,	Mr. Jupp, and
Mr. J. Wyatt,	Mr. Johnſon.

in order that they and you may adviſe with the Officers of the Houſe of Lords, and prepare plans of alterations and improvements, whereby the buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall may be rendered more commodious for the buſineſs of Parliament, and particularly for the accommodation of the Houſe of Lords; and I am to deſire you to acquaint the above-named gentlemen, that it is not intended any reward ſhould be given for ſuch plans as are not adopted.

I am, Sir,

Your moſt humble Servant,

(Signed) CHARLES LONG.

Treaſury Chambers,
26th Auguſt, 1793.

SIR,

I am commanded by the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury to deſire that you will ſubmit your plans of the Houſe of Lords and buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall, to the inſpection of Mr. Lewis, in addition to the

Architects

the professional gentlemen named therein, and several meetings took place in consequence; the plan of the buildings in their present state was produced by Mr. Soane; each rquired a copy, and copies were made and sent to every individual, which was attended with labour, personal inconvenience, and expence.

On May 5, 1794, the Lord Chancellor sent for Mr. Soane to attend him

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Architects mentioned in my letter to you of the 26th ultimo, acquainting him with the terms on which the plans are to be made.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

(Signed) CHARLES LONG.

Treasury Chambers,
18th September, 1793.

with

with his plan for the improvements of the Houſe of Lords.

Mr. Soane attended his Lordſhip with the plans of the buildings in their preſent ſtate, being the only plans he then had prepared, thinking himſelf not ſufficiently authorized by the directions of Mr. Secretary Long to make any ſeparate deſign for the improvements required, and none had been made in conjunction with the profeſſional gentlemen named in the letters of Mr. Long. The Lord Chancellor, on peruſing the letter which contained the directions, gave it the ſame conſtruction. His Lordſhip afterwards ordered Mr. Soane to attend the Houſe of Lords with the ſame plans of the buildings, &c. which he had produced to his Lordſhip when he waited upon him at his houſe; he attended accordingly a Committee of the Houſe of Lords, the late Duke of Leeds being in the Chair, with the plans of the buildings

ings in their preſent ſtate. The minutes of the Houſe, a copy of which is ſubjoined*, ſtate that "Mr. Soane, an Architect,

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*To conſider of making this Houſe more commodious, &c.

Die Lunæ 23° Junii, 1794.
DUKE OF LEEDS in the Chair.
Order of reference read.

Order read, for reviving this Committee and appointing it to meet on this day.

Order read, for adding all the Lords who have been preſent this ſeſſion to this Committee.

Order read, empowering this Committee to meet, notwithſtanding any adjournment of the Houſe.

Order read, empowering the Committee to meet from day to day.

The plan of the Houſe and adjacent buildings delivered in laſt year, is produced and inſpected by their Lordſhips.

Mr. Soane an Architect, late of the Board of Works, is called in, and examined with reſpect to the ſaid plan.

Ordered,

That Mr. Soane do prepare a plan for altering the fireplace in the Houſe, and making the ſame more convenient; and that he do lay the ſame before the Committee at their next meeting.

Adjourned to this day ſe'nnight the 30th inſt.

Adjourned.

"tect, *late of the Board of Works,* is "called in and examined with reſpect to "the ſaid plans."

Mr.

To conſider of making this Houſe more commodious, &c.

Die Lunæ 30° *Junii*, 1794,
DUKE OF LEEDS in the Chair.
Order of adjournment read.

The proceedings at the laſt ſitting of this Committee on Monday the 23d inſt. are read.

Mr. Soane attending according to order, is called in, who produces a plan of a ſtove for warming the Houſe of Lords, with references thereto, the expence of which will not exceed 150l. and alſo a plan for ventilating the Houſe at an expence not exceeding 100l. which are inſpected by the Lords of the Committee.

Reſolved, That the Committee do approve of the ſaid plan, and are of opinion that the ſame be immediately carried into execution.

Ordered, That the ſaid plan and reſolution be reported to the Houſe; and that the Lord in the Chair be directed to move the Houſe, that an humble addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty, to deſire that His Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to give directions that the ſaid plans may be carried into execution accordingly.

Ordered,

That Mr. Soane be directed to turn his attention during the courſe of the ſummer to what alterations can be made to render the Houſe of Lords, and the rooms and offices appertaining thereto, more commodious, conſiſtent with the general plan of the adjacent buildings.

A draught

Mr. Soane was then ordered "to propoſe a plan for altering the fire place, "and making it more convenient, and "to lay this plan before the Committee "of the Lords."

A draught of a report being then prepared, the ſame is read by the clerk as followeth, viz.

Ordered to report,

That the Committee have met, and taken into conſideration the matter to them referred, and have examined Mr. John Soane, an Architect, relative thereto, according to order produced a plan of a ſtove for warming the Houſe with references thereto, the expence of which will not exceed the ſum of 150l. and alſo a plan for ventilating the Houſe, at an expence not exceeding 100l.

That the Committee have approved of the ſaid plans, and are of opinion that the ſame ſhould be immediately carried into execution.

That the Committee have directed the ſaid plans to be laid before your Lordſhips for your approbation, and alſo their opinion that an humble addreſs be preſented to His Majeſty to deſire that His Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to give directions, that the ſame may be carried into execution accordingly.

That the ſame is agreed to, and ordered that the Lord in the Chair do report the ſame to the Houſe,

Adjourned till this day ſe'nnight.

Adjourned.

On

On the 30th of June, 1794, Mr. Soane attended according to order, was called in and produced his plan, (ſimilar to what had been executed under his direction, ſome time before, in the Houſe of Commons) when the Committee reſolved "that the "Committee do approve of the ſaid plan."

The plan thus approved was carried into execution with His Majeſty's ſanction.

By the ſame Committee it was "ordered "that Mr. Soane be directed to turn his "attention to what alterations can be "made to render the Houſe of Lords, "and the rooms and offices appertaining "thereto, more commodious, conſiſtent "with the general plan of the adjacent "buildings."

On receiving this order of the Committee, Mr. Soane immediately devoted his

moſt ſerious application to this complicated ſubject, and had larger and more accurate plans taken of the buildings in their preſent ſtate, in order to aſcertain, with all poſſible correctneſs, what could, with propriety, be retained and what entirely removed. Mr. Soane and his Clerks were almoſt wholly occupied from the month of June, 1794, to February, 1795, in the combination and conſtruction of the neceſſary previous plans, with their reſpective eſtimates.

Theſe deſigns were ſubmitted, at different times, to the Lord Chancellor officially, and alſo to Lord Grenville, who had firſt honored Mr. Soane in conſulting him on the ſubject, as well as to many other great perſonages and noble Lords*, on

* Prince of Wales,
Duke of York,
Duke of Clarence,
Duke of Gloceſter,
Prince William of Gloceſter,
Duke of Leeds (as Chairman),
Marquis of Lanſdown,
Marquis of Buckingham,
Marquis of Abercorn,
Earl of Hardwicke,
Earl of Carnarvon,
Lord Gwydir, as Lord Great Chamberlain, &c.

ſome

ſome of whom Mr. Soane had attended, by the Lord Chancellor's deſire. The Lord Chancellor expreſſed his full approbation thereupon, as did alſo the other Lords to whom the plans were ſubmitted.

The Lord Chancellor commanded Mr. Soane alſo to take His Majeſty's pleaſure on the deſigns: Mr. Soane proceeded to Windſor for this purpoſe, and had the honor to be moſt graciouſly received: His Majeſty examined every part with moſt accurate and ſcrupulous attention, expreſſed his entire approbation, and was particularly pleaſed with the idea of appropriating the two great rooms leading into the propoſed new Houſe of Lords as a depôt for Sculpture, commemorating great public actions, voted by Parliament, inſtead of placing it, as uſual, in Weſtminſter Abbey: His Majeſty was very much pleaſed alſo with the idea of the Great Scala Regia, to be decorated with Statues of our Kings.

Mr.

MR. SOANE COULD NOT BUT FEEL PECULIAR GRATIFICATION AT HIS MAJESTY'S APPROBATION OF HIS DESIGN, AS IT WAS A FAVORITE SUBJECT, AND HAD PRESENTED ITSELF TO HIS OWN MIND AS A GREAT INCENTIVE TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ARTS, AND AN OBJECT TRULY WORTHY OF A GREAT AND FLOURISHING STATE.

In Auguſt, 1794, Mr. Soane addreſſed the ſubjoined letter to the Board of Treaſury*.

In

* To the Right Hon. the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury.

My Lords,

In obedience to your Lordſhips' command, communicated to me in a letter from Mr. Long of the 26th of Auguſt, 1793, directing me to lay before

Mr. Holland,	Mr. Cockerell,
Mr. Groves, jun.	Mr. Brettingham,
Mr. Mylne,	Mr. J. Adam,
Mr. White,	Mr. Dance,
Mr. S. Wyatt,	Mr. Jupp, and
Mr. J. Wyatt,	Mr. Johnſon,

A plan of the Houſe of Lords, and of the buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall, in order that they and you may adviſe with the Officers of the Houſe of Lords, and prepare plans of alterations and improvements whereby the buildings adjacent to Weſtminſter Hall may be rendered

In November, 1794, Mr. Soane attended the Board of Treaſury with the drawings of his deſigns for the new Houſe of

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dered more commodious for the buſineſs of Parliament, and particularly for the accommodation of the Houſe of Lords."

A copy of Mr. Long's letter was immediately ſent to each of the before-named gentlemen; a meeting was held on the 9th of September, when the plan was inſpected, and the gentlemen preſent requeſted a copy of it; this was a work of ſome extent, but being particularly anxious that your Lordſhips ſhould not experience any delay or diſappointment, by not having the plans of alterations and improvements made in the time deſired by the Lords in their Addreſs to His Majeſty of June 17th, I moſt readily poſtponed all other buſineſs, and prepared ten copies of the original plan by the 19th of September, when another meeting took place, and the drawings were delivered to the ſeveral gentlemen, who having diſcuſſed the ſubject, adjourned the meeting ſine die.

Having had the honour ſince to attend a Committee of the Houſe of Lords, agreeable to their Lordſhips commands during the laſt ſeſſions, their Lordſhips were pleaſed to order, "That Mr. Soane be directed to turn his attention, during the courſe of the ſummer, to what alterations can be made, to render the Houſe of Lords, and the rooms and offices adjoining, more commodious, conſiſtent with the general plan of the adjacent buildings."

I have the honour to inform your Lordſhips, that I have completed, to the beſt of my judgment, ſeveral different deſigns,

of Lords; and ſoon after copies of the principal plans and elevations were preſented by Mr. Soane to Mr. Chancellor Pitt, with a ſtatement of the expence.

Mr. Soane, ſtill dedicating his moſt earneſt attention to this great work, continued to make ſuch improvements in the plans, as occurred from time to time on reviſing and reconſidering them, until the year 1795, when he informed Lord Grenville that he had brought the whole to that ſtate, that he thought himſelf incapable of further improving them: Lord Grenville ap-

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deſigns, for the purpoſes before mentioned, for your Lordſhips' inſpection, whenever you are pleaſed to order my attendance.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords,
Your much obliged,
and moſt faithful Servant,
JOHN SOANE.

Lincolns-Inn Fields,
Auguſt 5, 1794.

pointed

pointed a time to examine them, when his Lordſhip approved them fully, but expreſſed his regret that the times were ſo much changed (ſince the Committee of the Lords had directed Mr. Soane to form the plans) that the execution, for the preſent, muſt be deferred.

In December, 1798, Mr. Soane received the ſubjoined letter from Mr. Cowper, Clerk-aſſiſtant of the Houſe of Lords*.

In January, 1799, Lord Grenville again ſent to Mr. Soane "to ſee him with "the drawings of the new Houſe of "Lords." Mr. Soane attended accordingly.

* Mr. Cowper preſents his compliments to Mr. Soane, and requeſts that he will ſend to Lord Grenville the plan for a new Houſe of Lords, which Mr. Soane ſhewed the Lord Chancellor.

House of Lords,
18th December, 1798.

ingly. His Lordſhip re-examined the plans with great attention, and expreſſed his approbation in the moſt flattering terms. His Lordſhip alſo deſired that the drawings might be left with him; they remained ſeveral months in his Lordſhip's poſſeſſion, and then were returned to Mr. Soane.

From that period all proceedings on this ſubject were ſuſpended, as far as Mr. Soane underſtood, until he ſaw a paragraph in the Morning Herald of July 11, 1799, intimating that "Mr. Wyatt was engaged in making plans for a new Houſe of Lords."

Mr. Soane immediately waited on Lord Grenville to know if the information was correct, his Lordſhip replied, that he had moved the Houſe the latter end of the ſeſſions

ſions to addreſs his Majeſty to give directi-ons to the Board of Works to prepare the neceſſary plans for the improvement of the Houſe of Lords.

Having thus faithfully recapitulated the facts connected with this ſubject, Mr. Soane will beg only to add, that although when Lord Grenville did him the honor firſt to apply to him in the year 1793, he certainly held a place at the Board of Works, he had, nevertheleſs, reſigned that ſituation in the month of November of the ſame year; and in the month of June in the following year, Mr. Soane, when called upon by the Committee of the Lords, is *deſcribed* as *being late of the Board of Works.* Mr. Soane had the honor conſequently to receive the directions of the Right Honorable Houſe, and of his Majeſty's Miniſters, through the whole of this buſineſs in the character of a

profeſſional

profeſſional man, *not holding any employ in the ſervice of Government.*

If deſigns of a great public object, more conſiſtent with national grandeur or public convenience, have been produced by any other Artiſt whatever, Mr. Soane, ſtrong as may be his perſonal regrets at the diſappointment of carrying into execution ſo gratifying and important an undertaking, has no claim to expect a preference injurious to the public intereſts.

If, on the other hand, Mr. Wyatt is called upon as preſiding at the Board of Works, and in this character is conſidered as having a ſort of preſcriptive claim to be employed on this occaſion—Mr. Soane truſts it will be recollected that ſome of the greateſt public works have been executed, in our own time, by profeſſional men not preſiding at

at the Board of Works; no exclusive claim therefore, in the present case, can be supported by prescription. Mr. Soane however, must indulge the hope that, when Mr. Wyatt's plans may be completed, his own designs, which have occupied so many years of his study and application, may have the advantage of being submitted, together with Mr. Wyatt's, to a Committee of the Right Honorable House, under the sanction of his Majesty.

Mr. Soane must, in justice to himself, beg to observe, that after his designs had been so repeatedly approved, he made no scruple to exhibit them publicly at the Royal Academy, where every person had the full advantage of examining them; and an advantage every artist must allow it to be, whatever may be the relative scale of talents of the competitors. In the present view of the case, Mr. Soane cannot but regret

regret this circumſtance as involving great perſonal diſadvantage: and his reliance now wholly reſts on the liberality of that auguſt Perſon and the noble Lords by whom his profeſſional fate, as connected with this queſtion, muſt ultimately be determined.

The

The following Addreſs was prepared to accompany the Deſigns:

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD CHANCELLOR, AND THE REST OF THE LORDS COMMITTEES FOR MAKING THE HOUSE OF LORDS MORE COMMODIOUS, &c.

My Lords,

HAVING been honored with your Lordſhips' commands of the 30th of June laſt*, directing me to turn my attention to ſuch Alterations as could be made to render the Houſe of Lords, and the rooms and offices appertaining thereto, more commodious, conſiſtent with the general plan of the adjacent buildings; in conſequence of which order of your Lordſhips I have attentively ſurveyed the ſeveral houſes and other buildings immediately adjoining to Weſtminſter Hall, and

* Vide Page 11.

the

the two Houſes of Parliament, and the offices thereto belonging; and no alteration of conſequence having taken place ſince the ſurvey and report in 1789, by order of a Committee of the Houſe of Commons, appointed to inſpect the ſaid houſes and other buildings, I ſhall beg leave to refer your Lordſhips to that report for the detailed condition of the ſeveral buildings, and to ſtate from it only what relates immediately to the Houſe of Lords, namely, that "The Houſe of "Lords, Princes Chamber, and Painted "Chamber, are buildings of great anti-"quity, in many parts defective, and "have been altered and repaired ſo very "much from time to time, that, though "they may ſtand many years, they are "incapable of uſeful repair and improve-"ment, and there are cellars under the "whole, variouſly occupied, only one of "which is ſecured by arches from the

"communication

" communication of fire. All the build-
" ings Eaſt of the Houſe of Lords, are
" in ſo bad a ſtate, that many of them
" are in immediate danger of falling
" down, and are therefore unoccupied
" and ſhut up, and the others would coſt
" more to repair than rebuild them. The
" building Weſt of the Houſe of Lords
" containing the entrance thereto, and
" the ſtaircaſe, and Committee-room, is
" a ſubſtantial modern building, and the
" other buildings adjoining, compriſing
" the paſſages, Black Rod, and Privy
" Seal rooms are in part built with tim-
" ber, liable to rapid decay, and acci-
" dents from fire, and the remainder
" extremely old and ruinous.

" The Court of Requeſts is in itſelf a
" ſecure ſubſtantial building, but com-
" municates with, and is ſurrounded on
" the South and Weſt, by a variety of
" houſes

" houſes which are private property, part " of them timber, which muſt very much " endanger the whole as long as they " remain."

I have the honor to ſubmit, for the inſpection of your Lordſhips, four different deſigns to render the Houſe of Lords, and the rooms and offices appertaining thereto more commodious, in which I have endeavoured to retain as much as poſſible of the old buildings, and to apply the old materials to the beſt advantage.

The deſign marked A is for an entire new Houſe of Lords.

This deſign is intended to make part of a plan for the accommodation of Parliament, conſiſtent with the general plan of the adjacent buildings.

It

It may be proceeded upon immediately, and it may be conſtructed at different times, ſubſtantial and completely incombuſtible.

All the officers attending the Houſe of Lords, who now have rooms, will be accommodated, and alſo the Houſekeeper and Doorkeepers; but no conſideration has been given to any new or dormant claims whatever.

In the execution of this deſign, there would be no interruption nor inconvenience to the buſineſs of Parliament; and but little interference with private property, and none with the convenience of individuals.

To prevent inconvenience to the Members of both Houſes of Parliament, the area of Old Palace-Yard is conſiderably

ably enlarged, and the principal entrances to the Houſe of Lords are in the front next to Abingdon-Street.

The entrance for His Majeſty and the Royal Family is in the centre of the building. The Lords have an entrance in the front next to Weſtminſter Abbey, and other entrances facing Abingdon-ſtreet, from which they aſcend by ſeveral ſteps into the Court of Requeſts, and Painted Chamber. It is propoſed to decorate the Court of Requeſts with Columns ſupporting a vaulted ceiling from the example of the Temple of Peace, in Rome; and it is alſo ſubmitted to reſtore the Painted Chamber, as far as poſſible, to its ancient grandeur, Theſe two rooms being lofty and of large dimenſions, would conſtitute a grand approach to the Houſe of Lords; and as Weſtminſter Abbey is already crouded with ſculpture, they might be advantageouſly

tageouſly decorated, from time to time, with ſtatues and buſts of illuſtrious men; and alſo with baſſo-relievos, inſcriptions, and paintings deſcriptive of their great actions and public virtues.

Five years will be neceſſary for the completion of this deſign, the eſtimate of which I have maturely conſidered, and am of opinion that it will amount to about One Hundred and Twenty-four Thouſand Six Hundred Pounds.

I have likewiſe prepared two deſigns, marked B and C, for converting the Court of Requeſts into a Houſe of Lords. But it is my duty humbly to repreſent to your Lordſhips, that no communications or accommodations can be procured North of that building, without obſtructing the entrance of the Houſe of Commons; it is immediately bounded on the Eaſt, by a gallery

lery, likewiſe occupied by that Honorable Houſe, and by the apartments of the Clerk of the Houſe of Commons; and it is impoſſible to add buildings on the Weſt ſide, without contracting the area of Old Palace-yard, already too much confined for the carriages of their Lordſhips, and of the Members of the Houſe of Commons, whoſe principal entrance would be materially obſtructed by any building on that ſide; and the expence attending the purchaſe of the buildings now adjoining to the Court of Requeſts, and occupied chiefly by officers of the Houſe of Commons, would be very great.

I have alſo prepared a deſign marked D, for converting the Painted Chamber into a Houſe of Lords. But many of the ſame inconveniences occur. It is immediately bounded on the North by the gallery occupied by the Houſe of Commons, and by the

the houſe of Mr. Hatſell; and it would not be practicable to obtain the neceſſary offices and communications on the Weſt without deſtroying the Court of Requeſts, and purchaſing the houſes adjoining to it.

I will beg leave likewiſe to add, that either of theſe ideas would neceſſarily place the entrance doors for the Members of both Houſes ſo near together, that the inconveniences now ariſing from the obſtruction of the carriages would be conſiderably increaſed, and the execution of either of theſe deſigns would create a total interruption to the buſineſs of Parliament, and a material inconvenience to the Courts of Judicature during its progreſs. I ſhall not therefore prepare a particular eſtimate of the expence of the deſigns B, C, and D, unleſs I am honored with your Lordſhips' commands to conſider them more attentively.

I will

I will likewiſe beg leave to obſerve that the obſtruction which frequently ariſes to the carriages of the Members of both Houſes, at the entrance into Old Palace-yard, and which muſt apply equally to any deſign for the accommodation of Parliament, would be materially leſſened by the purchaſe of ſome of the premiſes in Margaret-ſtreet, ſituated between the Office of Ordnance and King Henry the Seventh's Chapel.

All which is moſt

Humbly ſubmitted.

JOHN SOANE, Architect.

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